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Up to August 23, 1969

3,320 US PLANES DOWNED
IN NORTH VIET NAM

At the invitation of the Fatherland Front, a delegation of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces is now visiting North Viet Nam. Led by its President, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, concurrently Vice-President of the Advisory Council to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, it receives a warm and affectionate welcome.

Photo: The delegation arrives in Hanoi:

Lawyer TRINH DINH THAO (right), accompanied by HOANG QUOC VIEI, member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party CC, member of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front CC and President of the Federation of Trade Unions, waves acknowledgement to greetings of Hanoians.



South Viet Nam

PLAF NEW DEVASTATING STRIKES

Saigon Front

In Six Days Ending August 17

- 6,000 Enemy Troops (3,500 GIs), 530 Vehicles (450 Tanks and Armoured Cars) and 70 Heavy Guns and Mortars Put out of Action; 90 Aircraft Downed or Wrecked in Binh Long and Tay Ninh Sectors.
- 1,350 Adverse Soldiers Knocked Out in My Tho Province.

Da Nang Front

In Two Days (August 13 and 13)

- About One Thousand Enemy Casualties (760 GI's).
- Phu Bai US Base (near Hue) Stormed on the Night of August 10: a US Company Wiped Out With Heavy Material Losses.
- 600 Soldiers Put out of Action, 4 Aircraft Grounded in Quang Ngai Sector.

South of DMZ

- 900 GIs Disabled, 42 Vehicles Wrecked, 12 Aircraft Downed in the First Half of August.

"De-Americanisation" of the War

Leaning on a Reed

THE US misadventure in Viet Nam is tragic and no more doubt about its bankruptcy is entertained by world and American public opinion. The withdrawal of the expeditionary corps has become an unpleasant necessity forced on Washington by the Vietnamese on the one hand and by the Americans on the other.

Not resigning himself to giving up the imperialist objectives pursued thus far, the perfidious "hawk" Nixon thinks he has found a magic formula for a victory at cheaper price in "de-Americanisation" or "Vietnamization" of the war. It consists in beefing up the puppet army by drafting as many youths as possible, thrusting into their hands a quantity of weapons and equipment as modern as US military security can allow, training them in the use of this armory in the shortest delay possible, and then matching them against their compatriots in the name of the latter's freedom and self-determination.

It is a miracle of simplicity. However, this puppet army ought to stand its ground in face of an adversary that has, within a quarter of a century, defeated the Japanese, the French armies, and successfully confronted the Americans — the three most reputed imperialist armies.

AN ARMY THAT HAS KNOWN BUT REVERSES AND HUMILIATIONS

BORN in the wagons of the French expeditionary corps during the "filthy" 1945-1954 Indochina war, the puppet army is handicapped irremediably by quite an inglorious past. Its first nuclei consisted of units of auxiliary troops recruited from among the rifflers in occupied areas and armed by the French colonialists. Nguyen Van Thieu, the present puppet "President" and "Linc", is one of these veterans because in 1946 he wore

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US OBEDURACY, CAUSE OF PARIS CONFERENCE'S DEADLOCK

THE seven fruitless months of the Paris Conference and the words and deeds of the US government in that period are evidence enough of the stubborn position of the US, especially concerning two fundamental questions: the withdrawal of the US troops and the recognition of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. In these two issues, the basic difference between US colonialist stance and the correct, fair and logical position of the Vietnamese people is only too clear.

As regards the first question, the US still insists on mutual troop withdrawal, an utterly absurd claim intended to justify the dispatch of US troops across half of the globe to invade Viet Nam and put on a par the US, the aggressor, and the Vietnamese people, victims of US aggression. It also denies the sacred right of self-defence of the Vietnamese people who are fighting on their own soil. In fact, it aims at prolonging the occupation of South Viet Nam by the US expeditionary troops to stem the people's patriotic struggle and prop up the puppets.

As unmistakably pointed out in the ten-point overall solution of the NFL, since the US has illegally committed troops on an aggression against South Viet Nam, it must withdraw all US and satellite troops from there without any condition whatsoever. This matter must be settled between Viet Nam and the US. As an international issue, it cannot be confused with another question which must be solved among the Vietnamese people themselves, that is the one concerning the Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam. The position of the Vietnamese people concerning this is a principled, clear-cut and logical one.

As for the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, the US also suggested "general elections" and even declared readiness to accept whatever result the "elections" might yield. But the important point here is who will organize and control the elections. In the US opinion, "elections" will be organized and controlled by the Saigon puppet administration at the gunpoints of the US expeditionary troops. The US

scheme is thus transparent: the so-called "free and democratic general elections" in which the US calls on the South Vietnamese people to take part after laying down arms would in no way differ from the previous "elections" forces that brought Ngo Dinh Diem and Nguyen Van Thieu to the puppet presidency.

The NFL ten-point overall solution is unequivocal in this respect: to guarantee the real right of self-determination to the South Vietnamese people and to ensure really free and democratic general elections, a provisional coalition government must be set up, embracing the political forces representing the various social strata and political tendencies in South Viet Nam that stand for peace, independence and neutrality; this government will organize free and democratic general elections, work out a constitution and pave the way for the formation of a full-fledged coalition government. Such general elections can be held only when the US and satellite troops have already been completely pulled out of South Viet Nam. This obviously is a fair and reasonable position, consistent with reality and the South Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and right to self-determination.

A comparison between the reasonableness of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government and the NFL and the stubbornness of the US on the problem of US troop withdrawal, on the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination and other problems leads to this conclusion: the US still refuses to give up its colonialist policy, to recognize the fundamental national rights and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people and still holds fast to the puppet administration in the hope of dragging on its occupation of South Viet Nam, representing the South Vietnamese people and prolonging the partition of Viet Nam. It is therefore clear that the US has not "gone as far as it can," in the search for peace, contrarily to what Nixon has claimed. Instead, the US has gone to great lengths of obduracy and perfidy to implement its colonialist policy in South Viet Nam.

On the other hand, US policy is vividly illustrated by the intensification of US military activities in South Viet Nam. In fact, the US, satellite and puppet troops frequently conduct "sweep" operations against the people, committing barbarous crimes, US B-52 daily drop thousands of tons of bombs devastating villages and crop fields. The US continues using in South Viet Nam lethal weapons and war means such as napalm, phosphorus and seven-ton bombs, toxic gas and chemicals. US aircraft daily carry out reconnaissance flights over the DRVN territory and bombard many places. To put into effect the so-called "de-Americanization" or "Vietnamization" of the war, the US is feverishly strengthening and equipping the puppet army on the US payroll.

The atrocious war crimes committed by the US aggressors have been condemned by the progressive mankind. Yet, Nixon has had the cheek to say that the years of US aggression in Viet Nam were "the finest hours of the United States."

These cynical words once again prove that, despite its ever heavier setbacks and predicament, the US still refuses to give up its aggressive design and neo-colonialist policy against South Viet Nam.

This reactionary and obdurate stand of the US is the cause of the Paris Conference's deadlock. At the Conference's 31st session last August 21, Minister Xuan Thuy stressed: "The US must bear full responsibility for the lack of progress of the Paris Conference, for the continued prolongation of the war in Viet Nam, for American youths being sent to useless death, and for the disastrous effects of US authorities' policy of war and aggression in Viet Nam."

Minister Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government delegation, on August 7 denounced the US for foot-dragging the Paris Conference and pointed out: "The US has not 'gone as far as it can' in opening the door to peace," but on the contrary the US "withdrew of 35,000 GIs" and "free long the war, and in swindling about peace. It is the US and nobody else, which should be held fully responsible for prolonging the war and the sufferings and mourning sustained by the Vietnamese people."

Shue Han
August 20, 1969

At the 31st plenary session of the Paris Conference, the Vietnamese people's representatives, Ha Van Lau (DRVN) and Minister Nguyen Thi Binh (PRG of RSVN), flatly rejected the US and Saigon puppet administrations' denial of their bellicosity and protestations of their "love of peace."

The two delegates pointed out that in the North, US places had continued their reconnaissance missions and bombing against many localities between the 17th and 19th parallels. American

whether they mean that the US and puppet clique will go on deliberately stalemating the Paris Conference! Once again, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh unmasked the Thieu-Ky-Huong triumvirate, a gang of vile traitors to the country, of fire-eating dictators rotten to the core, who persecute all those who dare stand for peace, independence and neutrality. They are at one another's throat in a scramble for selfish interests and positions. It is that administration despised by the South Vietnamese that the US has been doing its best

31st Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Aug. 21, 1969)

Vietnamese People's Representatives Bare Washington's Bellicosity

guns based on US warships and south of the DMZ had been carrying on poundings of the southern coastal areas of the DRVN. On August 6, 1969, US planes raided two villages in Quang Binh province, inflicting many civilian casualties.

In South Viet Nam, the US military command admitted that B-52s had recently flown the fiercest bombing sorties in the Viet Nam war. They dropped for instance, nearly one thousand tons of bombs on the night of August 15, and 1,500 tons on the night of August 16 in the area bordering on Cambodia. Besides, the US intensified chemical warfare. Since 1964, US troops have sprayed up to 7,000 tons of toxic chemicals in South Viet Nam, a quantity enough to cover the whole of its territory. In July 1969, the US dispatched to the South a number of troops equivalent to a division, while American generals clamoured to maintain "maximum military pressure" there.

DRVN and PRG representatives commented that the US "withdrew of 35,000 GIs" and "free long the war, and in swindling about peace. It is the US and nobody else, which should be held fully responsible for prolonging the war and the sufferings and mourning sustained by the Vietnamese people."

to prettify with "legal and constitutional" face and to shore up at the cost of many young American lives. There is no clearer indication that the Washington rulers are flouting public opinion as well as the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people.

In bringing out in relief once again the soundness of the ten-point solution put forth by the NFL and PRG of the RSVN, the Vietnamese people's representatives underlined the will for peace of the DRVN government and PRG. "We have carefully examined the proposals of the delegates of the US and Saigon administrations," said Mr Ha Van Lau. "We have many a time analysed and criticised their negative character." If we dismiss it, it is because it aims only at implementing US aggressive and neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam, perpetuating the partition of Viet Nam, trampling underfoot the fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people and denying the right to self-determination.

As has been recalled many times, we are ready to negotiate with the parties concerned a peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam issue on the basis of the NFL to points. If the Viet Nam war drags on, if the Paris Conference marks time, it must be entirely blamed on the US and Saigon administrations.

THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

All-Viet Nam Militant Solidarity, an Invincible Force

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by HOANG QUOC VIET, member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party CC, member of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front CC and President of the Federation of Trade Unions, at the rally in honour of the VNANDPF Delegation)

THE US aggressors and their lackeys, traitors to the country, want to turn the South Viet Nam towns and cities into safe strongholds and hideouts. But the flames of struggle in the South Viet Nam urban centres have never ceased spreading. The widespread offensives and uprisings of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people only last year have carried the patriotic war into the towns. In coordination with the people's liberation army forces, the patriotic and revolutionary forces in the towns all a man stood up, and attacked the enemy in his very lairs. Intellectuals, students, pupils, industrialists, traders, workers, functionaries, and even many officers and soldiers of the puppet army, of different political tendencies, and religious creeds have taken part in increasing numbers in the patriotic movement and have organized themselves, together with the people at large, to fight the US aggressors and their flunkys, for national salvation.

The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces came into being amidst such effervescence. The event was of tremendous political importance in the new stage of the South Viet Nam revolution. It spelled out the vigorous development of the patriotic movement of the South Vietnamese

urban people. The Alliance's birth and activities further aggravate the isolation of the US imperialists and the Thieu-Ky-Huong traitor clique, and portend their inevitable failure. The National Salvation Manifesto and Political Program of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces has clearly expounded its goal which is: to rally all patriotic forces and individuals, fight resolutely against foreign aggression, completely overthrow the Thieu-Ky puppet regime, set up a national coalition government, achieve independence, democracy and peace.

This sound position of the Alliance is consistent with the Political Program of the South Viet Nam NFL, and the pressing demands and common interests of the South Vietnamese people. This has therefore won the strong approval from broad strata of the people in the urban centres still controlled by the enemy, and the sympathy and support of the people in South Viet Nam and the rest of the country. Mutual support and co-ordinated actions between the NFL and the VNANDPF have created new possibilities for the broadening and consolidation of the national united front against the US aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Huong gang of traitors.

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We Will Do Our Best To Mobilize South Viet Nam Townspeople To Step Up Their Struggle Against US Aggression

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by LUYEN TRINH DINH THAO, Head of the VNANDPF Delegation)

THE tremendous successes of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, especially the splendid achievements in the stage of widespread offensives and uprisings can be ascribed to the ardent patriotism, the deep hatred for the US aggressors and their henchmen, the spirit of self-sacrifice for the Fatherland, and the valiant fighting of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people under the leadership of the South Viet Nam NFL, the organizer and leader of the victorious resistance of the South Vietnamese people. They are also due to national solidarity and the unity of mind and might of all patriots.

We are very glad and moved at the great accomplishments recorded by our North Vietnamese kith-and-kin in national construction and in building a new life in the North, leaving countless sacrifices and trials during the war. They have brought added glory to our nation, and stimulated the South Vietnamese people including various strata of the urban population in their fight against the US aggressors, for national salvation.

We wish to voice our admiration to the North Vietnamese intellectuals for their dedicated efforts to

build a modern science and advanced culture for the nation, contributing actively to national salvation and construction.

The South Vietnamese people, especially the people in the towns and cities and in the areas still controlled by the enemy, greatly admire the North Vietnamese people's downing of more than 3,300 US aircraft, exploding of the US Air Force's "superiority" myth, defeating of the US air and naval war of destruction.

The US aggressors have been adventurous enough to wage a local war in South Viet Nam and a war of destruction on the North of our country. But kindred relations of the 31 million Vietnamese in the two zones is an invincible force, a magic wand helping our people to inflict defeat after defeat upon the US aggressors.

The big successes of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have driven the US aggressors and their henchmen into a position of passiveness, weakness and utter isolation. The failure of the US imperialist is all too clear to everybody, but for more than a year now they have remained obdurate and

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At the welcome rally: The crowd enthusiastically welcomes combatants from the great Southern front.

LEARNING A REED

(Continued from page 1)

the stripes of a sergeant. The same is true with virtually all other senior officers including Nguyen Cao Ky, Nguyen Van Vy, Cao Van Vien, respectively Vice-President, Defence Minister and General Chief of Staff, etc.

During the different offensives of the Viet Nam People's Army, especially in the period of Dien Bien Phu, these outfits became "national (puppet) army" of the Bao Dai regime, virtually disintegrated. Of their remnants regrouped in the South after Geneva (1954) and patched up thanks to US dollars, weapons and "advisers," dictator Ngo Dinh Diem made a republican army, whose primary task it was to "fill up" Ben Hai river which serves as the demarcation line between the two zones, North and South Viet Nam. However, faced with the upheaval of the revolutionary movement in the South, this army had to wheel towards internal repression.

In 1959-1960, even with its 300,000 men under arms, it was powerless in face of the "simultaneous popular springings," with the result that Washington had to start the "special war" in the years 1961-1965. Despite its Johnson's 100:1 troop ratio according to US estimates, its losses kept rising year after year:

- 1961: 49,400 killed, wounded and deserters;
- 1962: 85,000 killed, wounded and deserters;
- 1963: 118,000 killed, wounded and deserters;
- 1964: 135,400 killed, wounded and deserters.

The impotence of the puppet army became patent in the Ap 1964 battle which took place on Jan. 2, 1963 in the open fields on the Mekong Delta. That day, 2,000 men of the puppet army under the direct command of 28 General Robert York, supported by armoured personnel carriers, gunboats, planes, helicopters, cannons and mortars, lost to a PLAF unit to tens numerically inferior 500 soldiers, officers and "advisers" without being able to wipe out the enemy though beleaguered.

Towards the beginning of 1965, as American correspondents put it, the puppet army was like a boat in distress amidst an impetuous current, and that forced the Pentagon into a massive US troop build-up in South Viet Nam.

At first, the GIs replaced the puppet troops in guarding the bases and the rear to enable the latter to do the fighting, in which they soon proved mainly ineffective. Then, then chose to commit his own troops to action beside the puppet forces. He took the Americans not much time to find out that this co-operation was fruitless and even dangerous for themselves: under the onslaught of the patriots, the puppet soldiers ran for their lives and often lethally exposed their "allies."

Next, it was a further step in the "Americanisation of the war": the GIs now shouldered the housewife's task as the Western press termed it. This modest job was still heavy for them that US troops had to assume a major share.

Since the 1968 Tet offensives, the weaknesses of the puppet army have been even more accentuated. The "advisers" have been forced to deploy one-third of the strength of the US expeditionary corps to support his local "allies." Whereas in 1965 when the puppet army were in charge of all the operations on the battlefield its losses amounted to 40 battalions destroyed or decimated, these figures doubled to 79 battalions in 1968, while it enjoyed maximum US support.

BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PUPPET UNITS

The puppet army has to infantry divisions disposed as shown on the map opposite. All have been badly battered by the PLAF.

Take for instance the First Infantry Division, on which LBJ Johnson lavished a eulogistic citation and which the Pentagon took pleasure in praising as comparable to any US infantry division.

Activated in November 1955, it was one of the first-born puppet divisions, and occupying South Viet Nam's two northernmost provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien. It played the assigned role of a spearhead in a "March on the North," so eagerly wished for but off since its inefficiency in the control of these two provinces compelled the US command to haul US Marines into the jungle south of its 17th parallel in Summer 1960, thus upsetting the enemy battle array and strategic plans. This did not prevent the 1st Inf. Div. from suffering 2,000 casualties on the Highway No. 9 front as well as two battalions and about 200 companies annihilated or depleted in cities and bases in the rear area.

Early in April 1967, in only a few days, two regimental CPs of this division were blotted out at La Vang and Ta He, 2,000 soldiers and officers killed or wounded and 230 vehicles destroyed. Next came the famous 1968 Tet offensives with Hue as one of the main targets. The 1st Inf. Div. was paralysed and whittled down right in the first attacks, and for more than three weeks, GIs and South Korean mercenaries were continuously rushed in to its rescue. All told, in 1966, it lost 3 battalions and 20 companies of infantry, an armoured regiment and 2 engineering battalions. And on Jan. 21, 1969, according to AFP, its commander, Gen. Ngo Quang Truong, declared that it would take a very long time before his division could dispense with the support of the American forces.

The plight of the 9 other divisions was no better.

Let us mention also the case of the 22nd Inf. Div. renowned for its record number of rebellions; that of the 15th infantry known in the "Pentagon East" as the most skillful in dodging encounters with the VC and which showed a 50-percent increase in the desertion (end Dec. 1964-Jan. 1965), where 3,000 of them were killed or wounded in a 6-day battle. In 1968, they had 4 battalions put out of action in the Saigon-Gia Dinh sector and 5th in the Tay Ninh sector. In the first half of this year, often enough they dodged clashes with the PLAF.

The Rangers, mobile forces of intervention in various tactical zones, lost to battalions in 1968, 3 of them each in the cities of Saigon, Da Lat and Cao Bang. The Last May, in Plei Can area (Ben Het), 3 other Ranger battalions were wiped out or decimated.

The Paratroops, who put on the airs of bloodthirsty panther-men, are however mere rascals in front of the resolute and battle-tested soldiers of the PLAF who have inflicted on them considerable casualties: 8 battalions and dozens of companies put out of action in 1968 in Hue (February), on Highway No. 9 and in Khe Sanh (April), in Saigon (May) and in the Tay Ninh sector (August-September). In the

first half of this year, 13 companies were knocked out or thinned South-west of Tay Ninh.

The Marines, self-styled "Sea Tigers," have practically lost their fighting spirit in the Binh Gia disaster (end Dec. 1964-Jan. 1965), where 3,000 of them were killed or wounded in a 6-day battle. In 1968, they had 4 battalions put out of action in the Saigon-Gia Dinh sector and 5th in the Tay Ninh sector. In the first half of this year, often enough they dodged clashes with the PLAF.

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While this troop beating-up triggers the hatred of the people against the US-puppets, it still fails to swell the ranks sensibly because battle losses and desertions cut big gaps in the Saigon army: close to 115,000 deserters in the first half of 1969.

One year after the promulgation of the general mobilisation law, Saigon's official figures could claim only 47, May 13, 1969 that the puppet army forces number 800,000 men, half of them in the "republican" regular number.

As disclosed by the Western press, these tallies rather destined to the estimation of the budget to be destroyed by the Americans are inflated compared with the records kept by the puppet Defence Ministry which, in its turn, relies on reports submitted by lower echelons. A malversation has become a common practice in such a rotten machine as the Saigon administration, there is understandably a far cry between the reality and the official statistics. Western correspondents have estimated that at each echelon of the hierarchy starting from the company, the figures have been swollen by at least 5% for this purpose!

The most barbarous methods resorted to by the US-puppets will certainly be able to some extent beef up the bastard and anti-national army. Nevertheless, this will only be more heterogeneous and its effectiveness quite poor. Already we feel the effects still more drastically. It is like quenching one's thirst with a poisoned drink.

British correspondents recently revealed that the US troops are forced to enlist and that most of them have not yet come of draft age. It was reported that in Saigon, nearly 100 houses and students of Buddhist schools had been indicted and that a paratroop battalion had had to accept in its ranks 140 prisoners 80 of whom deserted the next day, etc.

A similar jumble prevails in the camps of officers in which the criterion of promotion is, according to the US press, bribes, political connections, cringing... and not the military talent. To colonial wars can be bought in Saigon a few hundred thousand dollars which, however, are rapidly paid off once the greeds are obtained. What more about the generals who are found in profusion in the occupied areas of South Viet Nam? The systematic sacking of stores in Hue, Saigon and other cities by officers and men of the puppet army during the February and May 1968 PLAF offensives has been reported by

expeditionary corps in the "de-Americanisation," in essence "puppetisation." In different statements, they have contemplated remedies at massive dose, first of all an intensive military draft for a rapid increase of the strength.

According to US News and World Report of March 17, 1969, Nixon planned to pull out US troops by replacing a GI by a puppet soldier after crash training the latter. Thus it is necessary to promptly double the effectiveness of the puppet army, to over 1 million men. What a utopia, especially when the Americans and their valets are not run far beyond the limits of their bases and the cities in South Viet Nam.

In these areas, the troop levy has become a real scourge for the people and a source of constant anxiety for all families. The husband or the adolescent boy, at home, at the work site, at school or in the street, by day or by night, risks at any moment taking the place of one of the previous notes in a military truck to be driven, often tied up, to a recruiting centre. Of course, the draft agents are not over-particular and children of 15 and even younger, grey-headed men, even sick and disabled persons are sent press-ganged into the army.

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foreign press correspondents, as well as the activities of the two most lucrative "clandestine" organisations in the puppet army: that of the third of the US and all the officers of the puppet marine under the baton of Nguyen Van Thieu, and that of the opium traffic undertaken by air pilots under the control of Nguyen Cao Ky.

The first remedies seems rather inefficient to enable the puppet army to assume the heavy tasks awaiting them.

SECOND REMEDY, MODERNISATION AND INCREASE OF WEAPONRY: TO COMBAT DIARRHOEA WITH QUININE

This remedy seems depend solely on Washington which has allowed a massive dose of it in these days. Hundreds of thousands of M-16 automatic rifles still not available to any other armies in the US camp, except the American, several squadrons of A-7 attack jet planes, river flotillas with modern units, a sufficient number of combat equipment and other weapons have been handed over to the puppet army. Following his inspection tour of South Viet Nam last March, Melvin Laird proposed a 250 million-dollar budget for the speedy modernisation of the puppet troops.

However, the latter's armament is still far inferior to that of the GIs. US News and World Report has drawn a small parallel: a US division possesses 70 cannons, its puppet counterpart 30; a US battalion is given 99 military vehicles, its puppet opposite number 11; the number of automatic weapons of a US company is 4 times larger than that of a puppet company.

Ky's air force boasts, reported AFP, 30 A-7 planes used as training aircraft, some 5-5 F-4 Phantom fighter combat planes, but outdated, some 10 propeller-driven aircraft and a few helicopters.

The puppet navy has received only the first US patrol boats and is practically still embryonic compared with the US fleet in Vietnamese or nearby waters.

Certainly, to "saturate" the puppet army with modern weaponry and equipment is something quite feasible for the US. But is it that a good remedy to secure it the favours of victory?

A minimum of logic is enough to see that up to now the US-puppets have been battered not because of an inferiority in this respect. Quite the opposite, the second remedy is just like quinine against diarrhoea. Even in the best of cases, the puppet army will not be given an armament equal to that of the GIs. Now that the latter could not hold their ground under the blows of the patriots in the last 4 years, how then can the poor devils pranged into the puppet army do any better than their "allies"?

No, the true Achilles' heel of the puppet troops is not the lack of hardware, but of morale. This was acknowledged by Time magazine which commented on March 21 that specialised technicians and fire-power could in no way replace the lack of morale in the puppet army.

THIRD REMEDY, INTENSIVE TRAINING: LOVE'S LABOUR LOST

Great efforts have been made to give the puppet troops an intensive training which will



A PLAF unit

put them, in a minimum delay, in a position to fulfil the task Washington wants to assign to them. A part of the US troops has been detailed for this programme. (Qualifications for admission to military schools have been lowered substantially so as to form in a short space of time a rather large corps of officers for the circumstances. Thousands of officers and NCOs have been dispatched to the US, Taiwan and the Philippines to learn how to man modern weapons and tactics, etc.)

But such a difficulty is to determine what to teach the puppet troops and what combat methods to be adopted.

In fact, all US tactical, classic or modern, have been tried on the battlefield, and all have proved ineffective in face of the extraordinary "Charlie" guerrilla operations, armoured personnel carriers, overhead enrichment (thanks to paratroops and helicopters), fire-support bases, floating bases, river assaults, etc.)

US total impasse on the battlefield seems to have forced the military run short of imagination in this field. To acquaint the puppet troops with effective tactics capable of gaining victory is impossible for the simple reason that these do not exist. It only remains for the Americans to teach them those that have gone bankrupt, which is love's labour lost.

Certainly, the troop shortage, poor armament and inadequate training constitute important weak points of the puppet army, but Washington has forgotten, or has not been able to find a remedy for this fatal ailment, rather incurable, which is the lack of morale and consequently of combativity of an army involved in an anti-national and unjust war.

The ineffectiveness of the proposed remedies is largely due to the UPI (June 13, 1969), the Pentagon has estimated that it will cost 6.5 billion dollars and take 5 years, in 5 years, God knows if this army still exists to serve the Pentagon!

A CRIPPLE DEPRIVED OF HIS CRUTCHES

The treatment prescribed by Washington results in making of the puppet army an organism which appears, at a distance, impressive enough, but which is in reality a cripple, a cripple after 15 years of bitter defeat. Nevertheless, it is on this silling body that Nixon wants to shift all the war burden.

Tests on "de-Americanisation" have been conducted of late in some areas, again with "discouraging"

results: so, in the Mekong Delta where the NFL remains very powerful, the puppet troops like to conclude a *modus vivendi* with the local guerrillas; in the province of Long Khanh, East-Northeast of Saigon, between May 8 and May 19, 2 infantry battalions and 2 armoured squadrons of the 6th Infantry Division were destroyed or depleted; lastly, in the Plei Can - Ben Het - Dako sector in Northern Kon Tum, 1,500 men of the 12 puppet battalions involved and of the US 6th Infantry Division were put out of action between June 6 and June 24.

These experiments carried out with the presence and support of the US troops, the puppet army is given a "fit" with the reality of a real "puppetisation." If really the whole war had been crushed by the expeditionary corps and the puppet army is shifted on the latter's shoulders, there is no need to be a prophet to predict its final fate. To "de-Americanise" the war is, as for as the puppet army is concerned, like watching the crutches from a cradle.

Persistence in this "de-Americanisation" by the Nixon Administration is a sign of lower and its impotence is a dangerous game which will bring on it even more humiliating setbacks. Still one wonders if "Vietnamisation" is in reality a bluff designed to appease public opinion which is growing impatient of Washington's continued aggression in Viet Nam.

In fact, this withdrawal of GIs no eagerly desired by the American people would be ordered, according to Nixon, only under one of the 3 following conditions, each as utopian as the other:

- the puppet troops would be in a position to replace the GIs, something which will never be possible as we have seen above;

- the hostilities would diminish markedly, something which is inconceivable so long as the US imperialism continues its aggression against our Fatherland;

- the Paris Conference would have made substantial progress, while it is dragging its feet because of the absurd claim by the US government for a ransom for its aggression and its denial of our people's fundamental national rights.

In laying down unrealistic conditions, Nixon hopes to create pretexts for continuation of the war and put the blame on the Vietnamese people.

Either it is a utopian policy or a cunning move, the de-Americanisation of the US war of aggression can by no means constitute a short anchor for this criminal adventure.

* Nickname given by GIs to PLAF fighters.



Major Puppet Units in South Viet Nam
Roman number: Army corps and "tactical area".
Black square: General Staff.
Black star: Army corps and "tactical area" HQ.
Black circle: Division HQ.
Black triangle: Regimental CP (with general's name).

US News Agency Reveals US Clandestine Activities in Laos

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VIET NAM COURIER

(Continued from page 3)

...for the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

The VNANDIP led by Lawyer Trinh Dinh Tho. This view of the Alliance's leaders is that the Alliance is a broad front between our fellow-countrymen in the cities, intellectuals, students and other strata in the two zones, solidarity which will help push ahead the struggle for an independent, free, peaceful and neutral South Viet Nam and for the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

The VNANDIP undertakes to go in hand with the South Viet Nam NLF and do its best to mobilize the people of all strata in South Viet Nam's towns and cities to strengthen their solidarity, and step up the waves of widespread offensives and uprisings to force the resistance against the US aggression, for national salvation to complete victory.

WEEKLY SURVEY

VERY active in all theatres of operations, the PLAF made very heavy attacks on the Saigon front, hammering unrelentingly at the positions of US divisions "First Cav.," "Tropic Lightning" and "Big Red One." Armoured Regiment 11 and puppet Infantry Division 5 in the provinces of Tay Ninh, northwest, and Binh Long. North of Saigon (Hue Quang Region).

Saigon under "defence lull" was strongly shaken. In six days from the night of August 11 to 17, about 80 attacks were launched by the PLAF in these two provinces, exacting heavy losses from the enemy who had 5,000 men, 3,500 GIs put out of action, puppet Armoured Regiment 15 badly mauled, 5 battalions, six armoured squadrons and 16 companies wiped out, 50 military vehicles (450 tanks and armoured carriers), 70 ordnance pieces destroyed or damaged, 90 aircraft downed or wrecked, 20 war vessels sunk or burnt.

Southeast of Saigon, the enemy was taken to task in My Tho and Long An sectors (30 targets and even in My Tho town and base of US Division 9 (Trung Tam). From August 12 to 16, 1,350 enemy troops and 30 vehicles were put out of action.

THE first six months of this year saw, among other things, a stepped-up political drive in South Viet Nam, whose successes helped enhance the offensive posture of the people and their armed forces.

More than 20,000 highlanders in Central Viet Nam rose up in the period under review, razing 93 "strategic hamlets" in Kong Hing, southeast of Tan Can township in Kontum province, which involved some 10,000 people.

In the month ending March 22, the people in the central provinces of Central Viet Nam demolished 150 "strategic hamlets" and "refugees' centres," asserting their power in areas with an over 200,000 total population.

In the provinces west and southwest of the Mekong river revolts broke out in 22 "strategic hamlets" with the participation of more than 200,000 people.

Shattering blows were dealt at the enemy right in the supposed to be very "secure" People in the provincial capitals of My Tho, An Giang and Quang Nam provinces and on their outposts, in co-ordination with armed home-guards and guerrillas, took control of a great number of "strategic hamlets" and disbanded many "popular defence" units. Even in Saigon, many wicked enemy agents were made away with.

These political actions assumed varied forms, from street demonstrations to confrontations to foil enemy raids.

In the northernmost part of South Viet Nam, south of the DMZ on the 15th parallel, 15 Marine and puppet troops engaged near Con Tien and Dong Ha suffered heavy losses bringing the enemy toll in the first half of August to nearly 1,000 casualties (900 GIs), 32 vehicles destroyed, 12 aircraft downed and 5 vessels sunk or burnt.

In Hue sector, in addition to the onset against the airfield in the Citadel and enemy positions as mentioned in our last issue, the patriotic forces knocked out a US company, burnt and destroyed 20 depots of war material and a dozen blockhouses and barracks in a daring coup de main on the night of August 11. In the Da Nang sector, the PLAF maintained their pressure in the areas south, southeast and southwest of the city: 17 targets were hit on the night of Aug. 11 and about one thousand enemy casualties (700 GIs) were taken on August 12 and 13. Between the night of Aug. 11 and 14, US Da Nang base was struck three times in 6 days ending August 17, 600 adverse troops and 12 vehicles were wiped

out and 4 aircraft downed in Quang Nam province.

Summing up, enemy losses in the First Tactical Area were very heavy, particularly in so far as Armoured Infantry Division 5, Airborne Division 101 and Americal Division were concerned.

These onslaughts, chiefly those launched in the Binh Long and Tay Ninh sectors, despite the enemy concentration of 20 battalions and 500 armoured vehicles, testify to the high fighting spirit and huge potentials of the PLAF which are developing unceasingly in all fields, particularly in the tactical methods against enemy motorized and armoured forces and entrenched camps. On the other hand the setbacks suffered by the US expose the utter impotence of Abrams' defensive strategy and tactics and augur ill of his desperate attempt to "Vietnamize" the war and to curtail American losses.

IN Saigon, nearly 200 public transport workers reinforced at a meeting held on August 17 at the seat of the General Federation of La-

bour, their resolute opposition to the decision of the puppet administration to close the bus state-run enterprise, thus rendering idle hundreds of workers. Notice was served by the protesters on the puppet administration, threatening it with a general strike in case their demand would not be met.

This action of the Saigon bus drivers has stirred world opinion and, on behalf of civil servants in 65 countries, the public servants' international TU sent a letter to the Saigon administration to back the South Vietnamese workers.

Besides, on the occasion of the 6th anniversary of the bloody repression of the Buddhists in South Viet Nam towns and cities by the Ngo Dinh Diem administration (August 20), the Bureau of the Buddhist Institute in Saigon made public a statement by the Bonze Superior, director of the Institute, demanding cancellation of the illegal condemnation of Bonze Superior Thich Thien Minh, chief of the Buddhist Youth, and abrogation of law 23-1957 authorizing the reactionary lower Thich Tam Chau to split the Buddhist movement. The statement called on Buddhists to fight for peace in South Viet Nam.

Foreign press correspondents in Saigon reported that the Thieu-Kieu-Huong clique had closed down on August 16 the weekly Dien Dan (Tri-hung) right at its first issue, under the pretext that it carried cartoons ridiculing the puppet regime.

POWERFUL STEP-UP OF POLITICAL AGITATION
IN FIRST HALF OF 1969

Popular action was no less strong in contested and liberated areas, and thwarted to a great extent the notorious "accelerated pacification" campaign of the US puppets.

In southern Long An, the people and their armed forces in May and the first half of June mounted 200 attacks on enemy troops engaged in "pacification" operations. In two surprise assaults on a position in Long An town, they wiped out 125 enemy soldiers. There was also the storming of 31 "strategic hamlets" during which the attackers put out of action 170 enemy soldiers.

In the delta provinces of My Tho, Ben Tre, Go Cong, An Giang and Kien Phong, the people in the three summer months heavily trounced 26 "pacification" groups and knocked out many troops in their support.

Within four days in mid-May, 13 such groups were made short work of in the central part of Central Viet Nam.

The so-called "Popular Defence Forces" — a prop of the faltering "accelerated pacification" program — were also battered, with tens of

thousands of their men disabled in these six months. Many areas have completely got rid of these bandits. In the southern provinces, it has become a practice among "Popular Defence" men to hand in their weapons and turn a new leaf.

The grassroots puppet administration, as a result, is fast collapsing. Most of the "election" to village puppet administration in the past three months have been boycotted by the people, while, in growing numbers, village despots are reporting themselves to the revolutionary authorities.

Meanwhile, People's Revolutionary Committees of all levels had been established in most of the provinces by the end of June, following the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam early that month.

Struggle was particularly fierce against enemy atrocities and for democratic liberties. There were marches on towns in which the marchers confronted the enemy with their victims, alive or dead, to his utter confusion. The demonstrators against wanton bombardments in

Long An, Bien Hoa, My Tho, Can Tho, Gia Dinh and Quang Ngai provinces drew in even religious priests.

Strikes in the towns were expanded to a larger scale and put out a variety of claims, 8,000 workers in the capital of Quang Ngai province struck for price cuts and US withdrawal. Peasants tilling terraced fields in Tay Ninh and Long Khanh provinces came out strong against the influx of Thailand flour. In Lam Dong, 7,000 tea producers pressed for drastic measures to dispose of their piling stock. Sericulturists in An Giang urged prompt restoration of their dying industry.

In Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho, My Tho and other major urban centres there were walk-outs for low wages of rice, sugar, flour, and reduction of import taxes. In Saigon in particular, loud protests have been raised against the banning of Lambretta cyclecars — the only means of living of thousands of families — and the dissolution of collective management of business, which threatens thousands of drivers with unemployment.